

National Cannery Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information
Letter



For N. C. A.
Members

Membership Letter No. 36.

October 20, 1923.

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Large Attendance Expected at Forthcoming Board Meeting.

Judging from the early responses, there will be a large and representative attendance at the forthcoming semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago, ten o'clock Tuesday morning, November 6.

Owing to the importance of the subject, the matter of disposition of swells will be the principal topic for discussion. In fact, so that this question may be thoroughly threshed out, it is planned to give it the greater part of the day. Naturally, there may be some other things taken up, but this will have the right of way.

The vice presidents of the National Cannery Association and the president of each State association have been invited to attend. Also the members of the N.C.A. Advisory Board. Special emphasis is laid upon the fact that it will be an open meeting, and that all cannerys will be welcome, whether they are members of the Board or not.

That it will be a busy and interesting week is forecast by the fact that there will be other important meetings prior to the convening of the Western Cannery Association Wednesday morning. Among these will be that of the N.C.A. Committees on Scientific Research and Definitions and Standards of Canned Peas.

Canned Foods Week Committee to Meet at Chicago.

Another committee of importance to assemble at Chicago is the National Canned Foods Week Committee, which meets Tuesday night, November 6, at the Sherman Hotel. Royal F. Clark, of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Chairman of this committee, will preside.

Although Canned Foods Week, which is scheduled for March 1-8, 1924, is still quite a long way off, nevertheless, much work is already being done on the forthcoming campaign. Evidence of this is the fact that the American Wholesale Grocers Association have already appointed a committee of no less than one hundred and sixty-two prominent wholesale grocers to represent important cities in various parts of the country.

Spurious Alaska Stocks Again Menace Pea Cannery.

The N.C.A. Raw Products Research Bureau has learned from authoritative sources that spurious Alaska seed are once more finding their way into trade channels. Every canner should be alert to so safeguard his seed purchases as to run no chance of getting this seed which is apparently similar in character to that which has caused such serious losses in several localities in recent years.

Our information indicates that off-type and spurious stocks of Alaskas have been harvested in unusual quantity this fall and that these peas are being rapidly bought up by grain dealers, brokers, and speculators.

One in a position to know states that from personal observation this past summer, "it is undoubtedly a fact that no worse stock of Alaskas ever grew than the stock produced from this junk seed. Not only did they contain a heavy sprinkling of purple blossoms, but were peppered with long vines and really every type of off stock that might show in Alaskas."

Under these conditions it is especially desirable that every canner satisfy himself as to the history of his seed. Cannerymen who are interested may obtain further information by writing the N.C.A.

Frank Statement from a Doctor.

The attention of the National Cannerymen Association was called a few days ago to illness in a prominent family, which was alleged to be due to eating canned foods. The retailer when reporting it to the canner was very much exercised about the whole case. Fortunately there had been no press notice regarding the case. Nevertheless, a prompt investigation was made by the National Cannerymen Association and it was reassuring to find that the head of the family, a doctor himself, stated frankly that it was an improper combination of foods that caused the illness and the Association was enabled to place this valuable bit of information in the hands of the canner, who in turn allayed the fears of the retail distributor that sold the canned foods in question.

Praise for Denial of Canned Foods Allegation.

Under the heading, "What Real Organization Can Do", the Merchants Journal, of Topeka, Kansas, has the following editorial:

"Just as an example of what real organization of business men can do, notice the announcement made this week by the National Cannerymen Association relative to the false story in the newspapers that President Harding's death was due to eating some sort of canned stuff while on board the U.S.S. Henderson.

"This canned food fiction might have remained unchallenged, or at least uneffectively challenged, and might eventually have become part of the history of the country.

"The organized Cannerymen have 'canned' that yarn. They have the official denial of the story by the physicians who attended the President in his last sickness.

"Undisputed, a story like this would have cast a pall over the canned goods business for years to come."

Boxing and Crating Course Scheduled for December.

It is announced by Arthur Koehler, in charge of the instructional service at the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin, that the next course in boxing and crating will be given there from December 3 to 8, inclusive. Director Koehler says:

" * * * The last class, in May, numbered seventeen--the largest enrollment since the course was instituted in 1919.

"Several enrollments have already been received for the December class, and indications point to a large attendance. It may be necessary to limit the attendance, as it is impracticable to handle a larger class than we had last spring. This possibility, together with the fact that the course probably will not be repeated until late next summer or fall, undoubtedly will be of interest to the Association members."

N.C.A. Doubles Membership During the Year--Will You Help Us Get More?

The National Cannerymen Association has now been functioning nearly a year under normal conditions. Its real worth and importance are becoming more and more apparent. Its membership has been more than doubled during the past year. While the lists include many of the reputable canning plants of the country, there are still a number of companies whose membership would be desirable.

Becoming a member of the National Cannerymen Association should not be regarded as a hit or miss proposition. The Executive officers will not accept an application for membership unless it is believed the applicant is worthy and a credit to the Association and industry. There is an additional safeguard in that every application is put up to the Board of Directors, and if there be a single dissenting vote, the application is held open pending further investigation. Therefore, it is seen all doubts must be removed before membership is extended.

The services of the Association are now being confined to the membership. This applies to publications and bulletins as well, except in some instances. The Weekly Letter goes to no one but members in good standing.

It is not the desire of the N.C.A. that its members become solicitors for the Association, but a few kind words from its supporters will help a great deal towards increasing membership. Therefore, if any members know a desirable canneryman who may be approached by our representatives, it would be esteemed a very great courtesy and service if we could be so advised.

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